

A GUIDE
TO THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



Barack Obama
44TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIONS

Traditional Inauguration Day Events

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

Morning Worship Service - The tradition of attending a morning worship service on Inauguration Day began with Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

Procession to the Capitol - By tradition, the outgoing President accompanies the President-elect to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony

Vice President's Swearing-In Ceremony - Until 1937, the Vice President was sworn into office in the Senate chamber.

President's Swearing-In Ceremony - There have been 54 formal Presidential Inaugural ceremonies, held at over 10 different locations.

Inaugural Address - Since George Washington in 1789, every President has delivered an Inaugural address, ranging from 8,445 words, to just 135.

Departure of the Outgoing President - Following the inaugural ceremony on the west front of the U.S. Capitol, the outgoing President and First Lady leave the Capitol to begin their post-presidential lives.

Inaugural Luncheon - Since 1953, the JCCIC has hosted a luncheon at the U.S. Capitol for the new President, Vice President, and guests.

Inaugural Parade - While early parades were mostly military escorts, by 1841, floats, citizens groups, and bands became standard.

Inaugural Ball - The first Inaugural ball in Washington was thrown for James and Dolley Madison in 1809, at Long's Hotel. There have been as many as 14 balls.

Inaugural Program for the 56th Presidential Inauguration

WASHINGTON, DC - The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies announced the program for the 56th Presidential Inauguration, which will take place on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2009.

The program participants were based on requests from the President-elect and the Vice President-elect.

The order of the program will be as follows:

Musical Selections

The United States Marine Band

Musical Selections

The San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein

Invocation

Dr. Rick Warren, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA

Musical Selection

Aretha Franklin

Oath of Office Administered to Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

By Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

The Honorable John Paul Stevens

Musical Selection, John Williams, composer/arranger

Itzhak Perlman, *Violin*

Yo-Yo Ma, *Cello*

Gabriela Montero, *Piano*

Anthony McGill, *Clarinet*

Oath of Office Administered to President-elect Barack H. Obama

By the Chief Justice of the United States

The Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr.

Inaugural Address

The President of the United States, The Honorable Barack H. Obama

Poem

Elizabeth Alexander

Benediction

The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery

The National Anthem

The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters"

Biographies

Elizabeth Alexander is a poet, essayist, playwright, and teacher. She is the author of four books and was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize. She has received many grants and honors, most recently the Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellowship for work that "contributes to improving race relations in American society and furthers the broad social goals of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954," and the 2007 Jackson Prize for Poetry. She is a professor at Yale University and was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University this year.

Aretha Franklin is often described as "The Queen of Soul." In a career spanning more than 50 years, she has earned a reputation as one of the greatest singers of our time, with a repertoire that includes soul, jazz, rock, blues, pop, and gospel. Franklin has won 21 Grammy Awards, including the Living Legend Grammy and the Lifetime Achievement Grammy. In 1987 she became the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Other awards include the National Medal of Arts, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Kennedy Center Honors.

The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, considered the dean of the civil rights movement, co-founded along with Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and served as president and chief executive officer from 1977 to January 15, 1998. He served as pastor of Atlanta's oldest predominantly Black United Methodist congregation, Central Methodist Gardens for 18 years, and as pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church from 1986 to 1992.

Anthony McGill is the principal clarinetist of the New York Metropolitan Orchestra, a member of the Peabody Conservatory faculty in clarinet, and a much sought after soloist and chamber musician. A graduate of the Curtis Institute, he is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, a program designed to provide support for up-and-coming instrumentalists. He has performed at many music festivals, and appeared as a soloist with the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, New Jersey, and Hilton Head, and performed at Lincoln Center as a member of Chamber Music Society Two. McGill has also toured Europe and Japan with a chamber ensemble including Mitsuko Uchida and members of the Brentano String Quartet.

Yo-Yo Ma is a world renowned cellist, educator, and ambassador for the arts. His recordings are among the most successful recordings in the classical field, and reflect his wide-ranging interest in many musical genres and traditions. He began studying the cello at age four. He studied at the Juilliard School, and is a graduate of Harvard University. His awards include the Avery Fisher Prize, the Glenn Gould Prize, and the National

Medal of the Arts. Appointed a CultureConnect Ambassador by the United States Department of State in 2002, Yo-Yo Ma has met with, trained, and mentored thousands of students worldwide. In 2006, Secretary General Kofi Annan named him a U.N. Messenger of Peace, and in 2007 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon extended his appointment.

Gabriela Montero is a pianist known both for her impeccable classical playing and her improvisational gift. Montero gave her first public performance at the age of five. At age eight she made her concert debut with the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra, and was granted a scholarship to study in the United States. At twelve she won the Baldwin National Competition and AMSA Young Artist International Piano Competition. She won the Bronze Medal at the 13th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1995, and since then has played at recital halls and festivals around the world. Her recordings include both performances of well known classical compositions, as well as improvisations on themes by Bach and other classical composers.

Itzhak Perlman is one of the greatest violinists of our time. Following his training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv and the Julliard School, Perlman won the prestigious Leventritt Competition in 1964. Since then, Perlman has performed with every major orchestra throughout the world. He has also conducted orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, and the New York Philharmonic. He has won 15 Grammy Awards, four Emmy Awards, and numerous other awards including the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Arts, and the Medal of Liberty, presented by President Reagan in 1986 to honor the nation's most distinguished naturalized citizens during the centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty. Perlman is also an educator, teaching at the Perlman Music Program and the Juilliard School, where he holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair.

Dr. Rick Warren founded Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, in 1980 with one family. Today, it is an evangelical congregation averaging 22,000 weekly attendees, a 120-acre campus, and has more than 300 community ministries to groups such as prisoners, CEOs, addicts, single parents, and those with HIV/AIDS. He also leads the Purpose Driven Network of churches, a global coalition of congregations in 162 countries. TIME magazine named him one of "15 World Leaders Who Mattered Most in 2004," and in 2005 one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World."

John Williams is one of the most successful and best-known composers of our time. He studied at UCLA, Los Angeles City College, and the Juilliard School. Williams has composed the music and served as a music director for more than one hundred films, has received forty-five Academy Award nominations, and won five. He also has been awarded seven British Academy Awards (BAFTA), twenty Grammys, four Golden Globes, four Emmys, numerous gold and platinum records, and the Kennedy Center Honors. Williams has written many concert pieces, and special compositions for events including the Special Olympics, and the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. From 1980-1993, Williams conducted the Boston Pops Orchestra, and assumed the title of Boston Pops Laureate Conductor after retiring in December 1993. Williams also holds the title of Artist-in-Residence at Tanglewood.

The San Francisco Boys Chorus (SFBC) was founded in 1948 and has become an internationally acclaimed Grammy-award winning organization. The chorus has over 240 singers from 50 Bay Area cities and more than 120 schools at three Bay Area campuses. SFBC has toured in four continents where they performed for dignitaries such as: Pope John Paul II, HRH Queen Elizabeth II of England, King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden, HM Prince of Wales, the President of the former Soviet Union, and U.S presidents. SFBC celebrated their 60 year anniversary this year.

The San Francisco Girls Chorus (SFGC) is comprised of more than 300 singers, ages 7-18, from 160 schools in 44 Bay Area cities. SFGC was founded in 1978 and has become a regional center for choral music education and performance. The Chorus can also be heard on several San Francisco Symphony recordings, including three Grammy Award-winners. In 2001, SFGC became the first youth chorus to win the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award given annually by Chorus America to a chorus that demonstrates artistic excellence, a strong organizational structure, and a commitment to education.

The United States Marine Band, founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress, is America's oldest professional musical organization. Also called "The President's Own," the Marine Band is celebrated for its role at the White House and its dynamic public performances. The Marine Band performs a varied repertoire including new works for wind ensemble, traditional concert band literature, challenging orchestral transcriptions, and the patriotic marches that made it famous. The band frequently features its members in solo performances that highlight their virtuosity and artistry.

The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters" is the official chorus of the United States Navy. In 1956, Lt. Harold Fultz, then the Band's assistant leader, organized an all male group of singers from the Navy School of Music in Anacostia for the State of the Nation dinner. The group was an instant success, so Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, transferred them to the Navy Band, named them the "Sea Chanters," and gave them the mission of carrying on the songs of the sea. Women joined the "Sea Chanters" in 1980. The chorus appears throughout the United States and has also sung with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

'A New Birth of Freedom'—2009 Inaugural Theme

"A New Birth of Freedom" commemorates the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The words, echoing across 200 years from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, express Lincoln's hope that the sacrifice of those who died to preserve the United States would lead to "a new birth of freedom" for the nation.

Abraham Lincoln

Born Feb. 12, 1809 in Kentucky to, as he described them, parents of "undistinguished families," Lincoln's was the first president born outside of the original 13 colonies. His

family moved often, living in Kentucky, Indiana, and ultimately Illinois. Before becoming a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846, Lincoln ran a small store, served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, and practiced law.

The Gettysburg Address

President Lincoln was invited as the second speaker to give "a few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of the Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on Thurs., Nov. 19, 1863.

His speech, now known as The Gettysburg Address and considered to be one of the most quoted speeches in U.S. history, contained only 10 sentences and 272 words. Although two phrases from this short speech, "four score and seven years ago..." and "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people...", are more widely recognized, the lesser recognized "this nation shall have a new birth of freedom" is the cornerstone for the 2009 Inaugural theme.

As part of the visual imagery to convey the Inaugural theme, the JCCIC uses an image of the Hay draft of the speech. This draft is one of only five known written copies of the speech and was likely written shortly after Lincoln returned to Washington from Gettysburg. To see the full image of the draft, visit the Library of Congress's [Gettysburg Address website](#).

The Lincoln Memorial

Since 1981 when the Inaugural swearing-in was moved to the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, each president-elect has faced westward where he has both the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial directly in his line of site, where two of Lincoln's speeches are carved into the walls of his Memorial: his first Inaugural address and the Gettysburg Address.

Another part of the visual imagery used to convey the Inaugural theme is an image of the sculpture of Lincoln in his memorial.

Theme Selection

The theme was chosen by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in consultation with the Senate Historian's Office. Inaugural themes are incorporated into the official Inaugural program, Inaugural Luncheon menu and decor.

Facts and Firsts

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

Inauguration Date	President	Facts and Firsts
April 30, 1789	George Washington	First Inauguration; precedents set include the phrase, "So help me God," and kissing the Bible after taking the oath.
March 4, 1793	George Washington	First Inauguration in Philadelphia; delivered shortest Inaugural address at just 135 words.
March 4, 1797	John Adams	First to receive the oath of office from the Chief Justice of the United States.
March 4, 1801	Thomas Jefferson	First Inauguration in Washington, D.C.
March 4, 1809	James Madison	Inauguration held in the House chamber of the Capitol; first Inaugural ball held that evening.
March 4, 1817	James Monroe	First President to take the oath of office and deliver the Inaugural address outdoors; ceremony took place on platform in front of the temporary Brick Capitol (where Supreme Court now stands).
March 5, 1821	James Monroe	March 4, 1821 fell on a Sunday, so Monroe's Inauguration occurred the next day.
March 4, 1829	Andrew Jackson	First President to take the oath of office on the east front portico of the U.S. Capitol.
March 4, 1833	Andrew Jackson	Last time Chief Justice John Marshall administered the oath office; he presided over nine Inaugurations, from Adams to Jackson.
March 4, 1837	Martin Van Buren	First President who was not born a British subject; first time the President-elect and President rode to the Capitol for the Inauguration together .
March 4, 1841	William H. Harrison	First President to arrive in Washington by railroad; delivered the longest Inaugural address (8,445 words).
April 6, 1841	John Tyler	First Vice President to assume Presidency upon the death of the President.
March 4, 1845	James K. Polk	First Inauguration covered by telegraph; first known Inauguration featured in a newspaper illustration (<i>Illustrated London News</i>).
March 4, 1853	Franklin Pierce	Affirmed the oath of office rather than swear it;

		cancelled the Inaugural ball .
March 4, 1857	James Buchanan	First Inauguration known to have been photographed.
March 4, 1861	Abraham Lincoln	Lincoln's cavalry escort to the Capitol was heavily armed, providing unprecedented protection for the President-elect.
March 4, 1865	Abraham Lincoln	African Americans participated in the Inaugural parade for the first time.
March 4, 1873	Ulysses S. Grant	Coldest March 4 Inauguration Day; the noon temperature was 16°F, with wind gusts up to 40 mph.
March 3, 1877	Rutherford B. Hayes	March 4, 1877 fell on Sunday, so Hayes took oath of office on Saturday, March 3 to ensure peaceful transition of power; public Inauguration on March 5.
March 4, 1881	James Garfield	First President to review the Inaugural parade from a stand built in front of the White House.
March 4, 1897	William McKinley	First Inaugural ceremony recorded by a motion picture camera; first President to have a glass-enclosed reviewing stand; first Inauguration at which Congress hosted a luncheon for the President and Vice President
March 4, 1901	William McKinley	First time the U.S. House joined with the U.S. Senate, creating the JCCIC , to make Inaugural arrangements
March 4, 1909	William H. Taft	Inauguration took place in the Senate chamber because of blizzard; first time President's wife rode with President in the procession from the Capitol to the White House after Inauguration.
March 4, 1913	Woodrow Wilson	Inaugural ball was suspended for the first time since 1853.
March 4, 1917	Woodrow Wilson	First President to take the oath of office on Sunday; public Inauguration held on Monday, March 5, 1917; first time First Lady accompanied President both to and from the Capitol; first time women participated in the Inaugural parade .
March 4, 1921	Warren G. Harding	First President to ride to and from his Inauguration in an automobile.
March 4, 1925	Calvin Coolidge	First Inaugural ceremony broadcast nationally by radio; first time a former President (William Taft) administered the oath of office as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
March 4, 1929	Herbert Hoover	First Inaugural ceremony recorded by talking newsreel.
March 4, 1933	Franklin D. Roosevelt	FDR and Eleanor begin tradition of morning worship service by attending St. John's Church.
January 20, 1937	Franklin D. Roosevelt	First President Inaugurated on January 20th, a change made by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution; first time the Vice President was Inaugurated outdoors on the same platform with the President.
January 20, 1945	Franklin D.	First and only President sworn in for a fourth term;

January 20, 1949	Roosevelt Harry S. Truman	had simple Inaugural ceremony at the White House. First televised Inaugural ceremony; Truman reinstated the official Inaugural ball .
January 20, 1953	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Broke precedent by reciting his own prayer after taking the oath, rather than kissing the Bible; first time the JCCIC hosted the Inaugural luncheon at the Capitol.
January 20, 1961	John F. Kennedy	First time a poet participated in the Inaugural program; first Catholic to become President of the United States.
November 22, 1963	Lyndon B. Johnson	First time a woman administered the oath of office (U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes swore in Johnson on Air Force One).
January 20, 1969	Richard M. Nixon	Took the oath of office on two Bibles; both family heirlooms.
August 9, 1974	Gerald R. Ford	First unelected Vice President to become President.
January 20, 1981	Ronald Reagan	First Inauguration held on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.
January 21, 1985	Ronald Reagan	January 20th fell on Sunday, so Reagan was privately sworn in that day at the White House; public Inauguration on January 21st took place in the Capitol Rotunda, due to freezing weather; coldest Inauguration day on record, with a noon temperature of 7°F
January 20, 1997	William J. Clinton	First Inaugural ceremony broadcast live on the Internet.

Chronology of Inaugurations

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

Inauguration Date	President	Location
April 30, 1789	George Washington	Balcony of Federal Hall, New York City
March 4, 1793	George Washington	Senate Chamber, Congress Hall, Philadelphia
March 4, 1797	John Adams	House of Representatives Chamber, Congress Hall, Philadelphia
March 4, 1801	Thomas Jefferson	Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1805	Thomas Jefferson	Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1809	James Madison	House Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1813	James Madison	House Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1817	James Monroe	In front of the Old Brick Capitol (current

Inauguration Date	President	Location
		site of the Supreme Court)
March 5, 1821	James Monroe	House Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1825	John Quincy Adams	House Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1829	Andrew Jackson	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1833	Andrew Jackson	House Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1837	Martin Van Buren	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1841	William H. Harrison	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
April 6, 1841	John Tyler	Brown's Hotel, 6th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.
March 4, 1845	James K. Polk	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 5, 1849	Zachary Taylor	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
July 10, 1850	Millard Fillmore	House Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1853	Franklin Pierce	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1857	James Buchanan	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1861	Abraham Lincoln	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1865	Abraham Lincoln	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
April 15, 1865	Andrew Johnson	Kirkwood Hotel, 12th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.
March 4, 1869	Ulysses S. Grant	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1873	Ulysses S. Grant	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 5, 1877	Rutherford B. Hayes	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1881	James A. Garfield	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
September 20, 1881	Chester A. Arthur	Privately at his residence, 123 Lexington Ave., New York City
March 4, 1885	Grover Cleveland	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1889	Benjamin Harrison	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1893	Grover Cleveland	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1897	William McKinley	In front of the original Senate Wing, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1901	William McKinley	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
September 14, 1901	Theodore Roosevelt	Ansley Wilcox residence, Buffalo, New York
March 4, 1905	Theodore Roosevelt	East Portico, U.S. Capitol

Inauguration Date	President	Location
March 4, 1909	William H. Taft	Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1913	Woodrow Wilson	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 5, 1917	Woodrow Wilson	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1921	Warren G. Harding	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
August 3, 1923	Calvin Coolidge	His father's residence in Plymouth, Vermont
March 4, 1925	Calvin Coolidge	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1929	Herbert C. Hoover	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
March 4, 1933	Franklin D. Roosevelt	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1937	Franklin D. Roosevelt	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1941	Franklin D. Roosevelt	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1945	Franklin D. Roosevelt	South Portico, White House
April 12, 1945	Harry S Truman	Cabinet Room, White House
January 20, 1949	Harry S Truman	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1953	Dwight D. Eisenhower	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1957	Dwight D. Eisenhower	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1961	John F. Kennedy	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
November 22, 1963	Lyndon Baines Johnson	Conference room aboard Air Force One at Love Field, Dallas, Texas
January 20, 1965	Lyndon Baines Johnson	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1969	Richard M. Nixon	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1973	Richard M. Nixon	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
August 9, 1974	Gerald R. Ford	East Room, White House
January 20, 1977	James E. Carter	East Portico, U.S. Capitol
January 20,	Ronald W. Reagan	West Front, U.S. Capitol

Inauguration Date	President	Location
1981		
January 21, 1985	Ronald W. Reagan	Rotunda, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1989	George H. W. Bush	West Front, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1993	William J. Clinton	West Front, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 1997	William J. Clinton	West Front, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 2001	George W. Bush	West Front, U.S. Capitol
January 20, 2005	George W. Bush	West Front, U.S. Capitol

Inauguration Celebrates Continuity of American Democracy - Barack Obama will take oath of office at noon on January 20, 2009

December 23, 2008 – U.S. Dept. of State, International Information Programs (IIP)



The oath of office has been taken 55 times since George Washington first spoke the words in 1789.

Washington — When Barack Obama takes the oath of office on January 20, 2009, it will mark the 56th time that a U.S. president has been sworn in for a four-year term since 1789, when George Washington first took the same oath.

During that period, eight presidents died in office and one resigned; each time, the vice president took the same oath, and completed the four-year term.

Many inaugural events have been added during the past 220 years, but the steps that the president-elect follows to take the constitutionally mandated oath of office, the central event of the inauguration, are essentially unchanged.

The oath will be administered at the U.S. Capitol, in a ceremony on the west front of the building, overlooking the National Mall, as it has been since 1801 when Thomas Jefferson was sworn in there. The Supreme Court chief justice first administered the oath in 1797 to John Adams.

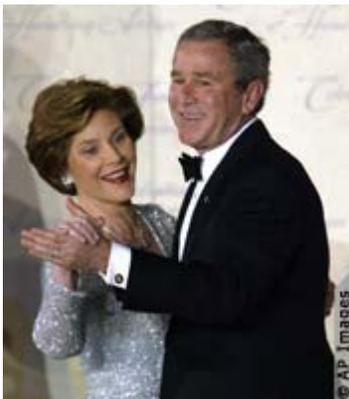
The swearing-in ceremony — televised since 1949 — will be attended by Obama's family, past and future Cabinet members, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, Supreme Court justices and many invited guests.

Joe Biden will be sworn in as vice president prior to Obama taking the oath of office, with the oath administered by Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. The vice presidential oath has been part of inauguration ceremonies only since 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt's second inauguration. Previously, the vice president was sworn in at a Senate ceremony because the Constitution designates the vice president as president of the Senate.

On January 20, Obama will stand before a judge — in this case Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts — and swear the 35-word oath prescribed in Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

When taking the oath, Obama will place his hand on the same Bible President Lincoln used at his first inauguration in 1861. The Bible is currently part of a collection at the Library of Congress. Although a Bible is traditionally used at the swearing in, it is not a constitutional requirement.



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush dance at an inaugural ball in 2005. There will be many balls in honor of Barack Obama.

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1933, sets the time and date for the presidential oath at noon on January 20. In the early days of the nation, when wintertime travel was difficult, inaugurations were held in March.

As in previous inaugural ceremonies, going back to that of George Washington, after taking the oath President Obama will give an inaugural address that outlines the themes for his four years in office.

OTHER INAUGURAL EVENTS

Many elements have been added to the inaugural program over time. President Obama's inauguration will follow the trend of recent years and feature several days of dinners, balls, receptions and other events focused on the theme of "Renewing America's Promise."

Obama and Biden will arrive in Washington, via train, on January 17. The first inaugural celebration will take place on the afternoon of January 18, with welcoming events throughout the city. Throughout the weekend, there will be festivities honoring the incoming president.

On January 19, Martin Luther King Day, the president-elect and vice president-elect will participate in a day of community service.

On the morning of January 20, the president and president-elect likely will meet with outgoing President Bush at the White House and travel to the Capitol together.

Following the noon swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol and the new president's speech, President Bush and first lady Laura Bush will leave Washington that day, as private citizens.

The new president and vice president will make their way from the Capitol back to the White House, where they will view a traditional parade that begins at the Capitol and follows a 1.7-mile (2.7-kilometers) route up Pennsylvania Avenue and past the White House.

In the evening there will be many formal inaugural balls — a few of which the Obamas will attend. Typically, the new first lady's gown for this evening is big news in the fashion world; the dress eventually will make its way into the Smithsonian Institution's collection of inaugural gowns.

The inaugural events conclude with a prayer service the morning of January 21 at the Washington National Cathedral. After that, the work of the new administration begins in earnest.

Presidential Inauguration History: From Grand to Fatal to Downright Awkward

By *Amanda Ruggeri*

Posted December 17, 2008
U.S. News & World Report

When [President-elect Barack Obama](#) drops that pesky suffix on January 20, the thousands there will know what to expect: a swearing-in, a speech, and a parade.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor Roosevelt are seen in the back seat of an open limousine arriving at the White House in Washington following his inauguration in 1941.



President Ronald Reagan and The First Lady wave from their limousine as they return to the White House after the inauguration on Jan 20th 1981.

But inaugurations haven't always been as straightforward as history's weight might imply. Along with jubilation, there have been frosty car rides, naked protesters, White House riots, and even, for one unfortunate president, a fatal onset of pneumonia.

When George Washington journeyed from Mount Vernon to New York, the U.S. capital at the time, he had two advantages over his successors. First, his 280-mile trip may have been on horseback, but it was punctuated with lavish celebrations: Philadelphians crowned him with a laurel, women in Trenton, N.J., scattered flowers and sang sonatas, and New Yorkers fired a 13-gun salute.

Second, he didn't have to worry about riding with his predecessor, a tradition that would begin with close allies Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren in 1837.

Some pairs executed the custom well. A gracious Millard Fillmore took his successor, Franklin Pierce, on a trip along the Potomac River. (Of course, he may have simply felt bad for Pierce, who had witnessed his 11-year-old son being crushed to death in a train wreck just two months earlier.)

Others, though, couldn't bear to abide by the precedent. Mutual dislike between President Andrew Johnson and Ulysses S. Grant caused Johnson to stay home from the 1869 inauguration. He was following in the footsteps of two pre-Jacksonian presidents, John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams, who shared a lack of grace along with genes: Neither attended his successor's inauguration.

Others endured the tradition, but frostily. One of the most awkward pairings was, oddly, between two old friends, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt. "They had served together in Wilson's administration. They had been neighbors. They had socialized together," says Associate Senate Historian Donald Ritchie. "In 1920, some Democrats wanted to run Hoover for president and Roosevelt for vice president. Roosevelt thought that was a great idea."

But politics came between them. By the 1933 inauguration, President Hoover deigned to ride with Roosevelt but wouldn't look at or speak to him—leaving Roosevelt to grasp at such conversation-starters as, "My dear Mr. President, aren't those the nicest steel girders you ever saw!"

The discomfort doesn't necessarily end upon reaching the Capitol. The most awkward moment—as well as the first time the inaugural oath was disrupted—occurred in 2001. In the wake of President George W. Bush's controversial 2000 victory, two protesters found a way around the ban on ticket-holders bringing signs, placards, or stickers to the inauguration. They wrote "No Mandate" and "Hail to the Thief" on their bodies and suddenly stripped 20 yards from the new president.

As far as uncomfortable moments go, next to nudity must be bungling the president's name. That happened to Robert Frost at the 1961 swearing-in of John F. Kennedy, says Jim Bendat, author of *Democracy's Big Day: The Inauguration of Our President, 1789-2009*. Frost had penned a poem just for the occasion, but the sun's glare was too bright for the 86-year-old. "The poor guy couldn't see what he had written," Bendat says. New Vice

President Lyndon Johnson's attempts to shield the poet's eyes from the glare with a top hat didn't help. Frost gave up and, instead, recited a poem that he knew by heart—but not before dedicating it to "the president-elect, Mr. John Finley." (Finley was a Harvard scholar.)

For another leader, it was his vice president's drunkenness that caused him shame. At his 1865 inauguration with Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson drank to make himself feel better after a bout with typhoid. The result was a speech so incoherent that one senator called it "the most unfortunate thing that has occurred in our history"—strong words, considering the country was in the midst of a civil war.

Still, the most tragic inauguration of an elected president had to be that of William Henry Harrison in 1841. Despite an ice storm, he refused a carriage to the ceremony. Once there, the 68-year-old spoke, hatless, for two solid hours—delivering, at 8,495 words, the longest inaugural address in history. He came down with pneumonia and died one month later.

For other presidents, the people—not the weather—were seen as the biggest threat. When Andrew Jackson invited the public into the White House for a celebration after his swearing-in in 1829, he meant to show that the building belonged to the people. But the people didn't necessarily all belong in the White House at the same time. The crush was so great that visitors collided with servants, spilling punch on the carpet; men in work boots stood on expensive, upholstered furniture. A Georgia congressman escaped the throng through a window.

Jackson—already worn down by the day's proceedings and because he had just lost his wife to a heart attack, thought to be brought on by the opposing campaign's mudslinging—wound up pressed against a wall by well-wishers. Worried friends hustled him out of the house. The crowd didn't thin until Jackson's steward ingeniously placed large tubs of whiskey punch outside on the lawn.

At another inauguration 140 years later, it was protesters, not supporters, who worried the president. Richard Nixon's ceremony was met with a three-day counterinauguration, complete with parade, reviewing stand, and ball. Protesters threw sticks, stones, and smoke bombs at the presidential limo, the first time an inaugural parade was interrupted by demonstrators. Four years later, with anti-Vietnam War fervor at fever pitch, somewhere from 25,000 to 100,000 gathered in protest along the route. They were met by

troops standing every 10 feet.

Reviewing Inaugural History

By ROBERT S. BOYD

McClatchy Newspapers, Wednesday, December 24, 2008

The inauguration of the first black president will long be remembered as a momentous day in history, but many past inaugurations also have had their memorable moments.

Even Barack Obama's arrival in the nation's capital aboard a special train recalls his fellow Illinoisan Abraham Lincoln's similar train ride in 1861. Lincoln had to travel the last part of the trip at night because of an assassination threat in Baltimore.

Inaugurations are a mixture of pomp, festival and gravity, the American equivalent of a coronation. Their rituals are laden with symbols of national purpose, continuity and unity. For 220 years, they have marked the peaceful transfer of power, a feat few other countries have achieved.

Presidents have tinkered with the ceremony to reflect their personal style and the state of the nation.

There've been top hats and bare heads, cheers and boos along parade routes, unruly mobs in the White House, poets and preachers, brilliant sunshine and bitter cold, glamorous balls and tragic circumstances. Almost always the day has featured a solemn swearing in, an inaugural address, one or more parades, plus parties, receptions and fancy balls far into the night.

The heart of the affair is the inaugural oath, first recited by George Washington on the balcony of New York City's Federal Hall, the original seat of government, on April 30, 1789. The 35-word oath is prescribed in the Constitution, but Washington added the phrase "So help me God," and placed his left hand on a Bible hastily borrowed from a Masonic Lodge on Wall Street. Most later presidents have followed the founding father's precedent.

Washington's successor, John Adams, took the oath in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Thomas Jefferson did it in the new Senate chamber in the District of Columbia in 1801. James Monroe moved the ceremony outside to the east front of the Capitol in 1817.

It remained there until 1981, when Ronald Reagan switched it to the Capitol's west front as a giant stage prop for his inauguration.

Sub-zero temperatures drove Reagan inside the Capitol building in 1985 for his second oath-taking and forced the cancellation of his parade, disappointing 12,000 marchers, 66 floats and 57 bands.

Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson showed their common touch by eschewing carriages and walking up to Capitol Hill to be sworn in. Jimmy Carter delighted the crowd and horrified the Secret Service by leaving his armored limousine after the swearing-in, and strolling down Pennsylvania Avenue with his wife and children to the White House. Both Bushes and the Clintons walked part of the way at their inaugurations as well.

Until Benjamin Harrison's 1889 inauguration, the parades usually moved up the hill to the Capitol. Since then, they've flowed down the hill past the White House reviewing stand. Some grander parades lasted well into darkness.

After his 1829 parade, Andrew Jackson opened the White House to thousands of his hungry and thirsty followers, who tracked in mud, broke windows and wrecked furniture. After Lincoln's second inaugural in 1865, unruly guests stole silver and draperies.

There've been awkward moments between incoming and outgoing presidents.

Adams boycotted Jefferson's inauguration in 1801. Ulysses Grant refused to ride in the same carriage as Andrew Johnson in 1869. Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt drove to the Capitol in chilly silence in 1933.

Not all inaugurations have been joyous occasions. Andrew Johnson took the oath in his boarding house the day after Lincoln's assassination in April 1865.

In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in in Buffalo, N.Y., where William McKinley had died earlier that day. A grim-faced Lyndon Johnson was sworn in aboard Air Force One on the day John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Gerald Ford took the oath in the East Room of the White House after Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

Ever since Washington, most presidents have launched their term with a formal address, usually calling for national reconciliation and setting out their vision for the future.

Washington and Adams gave their inaugural speeches in person. Jefferson and a century of his successors sent theirs to Congress in writing. Wilson renewed the personal address in 1913.

Some inaugural addresses have etched lines in the national memory:

-Thomas Jefferson: "We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists."

-Abraham Lincoln: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, (let us) bind up the nation's wounds."

-Franklin Roosevelt: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

-John Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

-Gerald Ford "Our long national nightmare is over."

At Kennedy's snow-swept inaugural in 1961, the glare of the sun and a stiff breeze kept Robert Frost from reading a poem he had written for the occasion. Vice President Lyndon Johnson tried to shade the lectern with his top hat, but the 86-year-old poet protested "I

can't see in this light." Instead, he recited from memory one of his earlier poems, "The Gift Outright."

William Henry Harrison's 1841 address - an hour and 40 minutes long, delivered without hat or coat on a cold, damp day - turned tragic. The 68-year-old Harrison developed pneumonia and died a month later. His vice president, John Tyler, was sworn in at his hotel and never gave an inaugural address.

The most recent inaugural, George Bush's second, was marred by scuffles with angry protestors. Cries of "warmonger" and "impeach Bush" clashed with chants of "USA" and "support our troops" as 13,000 police and soldiers stood guard.

This year, Obama's whistle-stop train ride from Philadelphia to Washington, picking up Vice President-elect Joseph Biden on the way, follows a long line of travels to the capital by incoming presidents. George Washington rode his horse and carriage from his beloved home at Mount Vernon to New York. Lincoln whistle-stopped from Springfield, the Illinois capital where Obama declared his candidacy Feb. 10, 2007.

To read the inaugural addresses of former presidents:

www.homeofheroes.com/presidents/

FAMOUS INAUGURAL WORDS

Abraham Lincoln

March 4, 1865

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds ..."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

March 4, 1933

"So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

John F. Kennedy

Jan. 20, 1961

"And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Ronald Regan

Jan. 20, 1981

"We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look."

George H.W. Bush

Jan. 20, 1989

"We must act on what we know. I take as my guide the hope of a saint: In crucial things, unity; in important things, diversity; in all things, generosity."

Bill Clinton

Jan. 20, 1993

"There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."

Morning Worship Service

On March 4, 1933, at 10:15 a.m., prior to his swearing-in ceremony, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor attended a church service at St. John's Episcopal Church, next to the White House. They did the same at Roosevelt's 1937 and 1941 Inaugurations, and arranged for a private service at the White House the morning of his fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. Roosevelt's Inauguration Day worship service set a precedent that has been followed by Presidents ever since.

Franklin Roosevelt was not the first President to attend church on Inauguration Day, however. In 1789, George Washington attended a service at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City immediately following his swearing-in ceremony. Although this feature of Washington's Inauguration did not set a precedent, religion still played a role in subsequent swearing-in ceremonies. Almost all Presidents since George Washington have placed their hand on a Bible when taking the oath of office. And all Presidents have included some reference to the Almighty in their Inaugural addresses (except George Washington's second address, which was only 135 words).

The following list provides information on Inauguration Day worship services attended by Presidents and Presidents-elect since 1933.

President	Inauguration Date	Service Attended
George W. Bush	Saturday, January 20, 2001	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
William J. Clinton	Monday, January 20, 1997	Attended private prayer service at Metropolitan AME Church
William J. Clinton	Wednesday, January 20, 1993	Attended private prayer service at Metropolitan AME Church (8:00 a.m.)
George H. W. Bush	Friday, January 20, 1989	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Ronald Reagan	Sunday, January 20, 1985	Attended service at National Cathedral Monday, January 21; attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Ronald Reagan	Tuesday, January 20, 1981	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
James E. Carter	Thursday, January 20, 1977	8:00 a.m. interfaith prayer service at the Lincoln Memorial
Richard M. Nixon	Saturday, January 20, 1973	No apparent church service Inauguration Day morning; attended church the next day
Richard M. Nixon	Monday, January 20, 1969	Attended official prayer breakfast in West Auditorium of the State Department
Lyndon B.	Wednesday,	Attended private service at National City Christian

Johnson	January 20, 1965	Church (9:00 a.m.)
John F. Kennedy	Friday, January 20, 1961	Attended Mass at Holy Trinity Church
Dwight D. Eisenhower	Sunday, January 20, 1957	Attended services at National Presbyterian Church (9:00 a.m.); took private oath of office that day; public ceremony the next day
Dwight D. Eisenhower	Tuesday, January 20, 1953	Attended service at National Presbyterian Church (9:30 a.m.)
Harry S Truman	Thursday, January 20, 1949	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:00 a.m.)
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Saturday, January 20, 1945	Private service held in the East Room of the White House
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Monday, January 20, 1941	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:30 a.m.)
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Wednesday, January 20, 1937	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:00 a.m.)
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Saturday, March 4, 1933	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:15 a.m.)

PROCESSION TO THE CAPITOL

Procession

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

On Inauguration Day, after a morning worship service, the President-elect, Vice President-elect, and their spouses will be escorted to the White House by members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. After a brief meeting, the President-elect and the outgoing President will then proceed together to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremonies. This tradition has endured, with few exceptions, since 1837, when Martin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson rode together in a carriage made from wood taken from the U.S.S. Constitution. The Vice President and Vice President-elect will follow, as will family members, cabinet members, and members of the JCCIC.

Since the first Inauguration of George Washington in 1789, the procession to the Inaugural ceremonies has provided an occasion for much celebration. In fact, the Inaugural parade that now follows the swearing-in ceremony first began as the procession, when military companies, bands, the President's cabinet, elected officials, and friends escorted the President-elect to the Inauguration. Procedures changed in 1873, when President Ulysses S. Grant reviewed the troops from a stand in front of the White House after the swearing-in ceremony. In 1881, a single military division escorted President-elect Garfield to the Capitol, and the full parade occurred after the Inauguration.

Although most presidents rode to their Inaugurations in a carriage (or later, an automobile), Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson both walked to their swearing-in ceremonies. In 1825, outgoing President James Monroe took part in the procession to the Capitol in his own carriage, following President-elect John Quincy Adams' carriage. In 1841, William Henry Harrison rode to the Capitol for his swearing-in ceremony on the back of a "white charger," surrounded by his close political allies. In 1845, outgoing President John Tyler joined President-elect Polk for the carriage-ride to the Capitol, firmly establishing the tradition first carried out by Van Buren and Jackson in 1837.

By the time of Zachary Taylor's Inauguration in 1849, a routine for the procession had been established, although it would change in small ways over time. A military and civilian escort would parade to the President-elect's lodgings, where they were joined by the outgoing President. The outgoing President would take his seat in the carriage to the right of the President-elect, and the whole entourage would then proceed to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony.

At the 1857 Inauguration of James Buchanan, members of the Senate Committee on Arrangements for the Inauguration formed an escort, and joined the President and President-elect in the carriage, starting a long-running tradition.

Lincoln did not join the procession to the Capitol for his second Inauguration in 1865. He had already gone to the Capitol early that morning to sign last-minute bills into law. The parade proceeded without him, and even made history as African Americans marched for the first time.

In 1869, Andrew Johnson became only the third President who did not join the President-elect in the procession to the Capitol, nor did he attend the swearing-in ceremony. He remained at the White House, signing last-minute legislation until his term expired at noon.

The 1877 Inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes started the tradition of the President-elect going first to the White House to meet the outgoing President before proceeding to the Capitol. The Vice President and Vice President-elect followed in a separate carriage, and after them, members of the Senate Committee on Arrangements. Future Inaugurations would follow this precedent.

Edith Galt Wilson became the first First Lady to accompany her husband in the carriage to the Capitol in 1917. In 1921, Warren G. Harding became the first President to ride to his Inauguration in an automobile. Lyndon B. Johnson's procession to the Capitol in 1965 was marked by stringent security measures, including a bullet-proof limousine.

Today, the Presidential procession to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony follows a firmly established protocol, based on the evolving traditions of past Inaugurations.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES

Vice President's Swearing-In Ceremony

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

Just before the President-elect takes the oath of office on Inauguration Day, the Vice President-elect will step forward on the Inaugural platform and repeat the oath of office. Although the United States Constitution specifically sets forth the oath required by the President, it only says that the Vice President and other government officers should take an oath upholding the Constitution. It does not specify the form of that oath.

The First Congress passed an oath act on June 1, 1789, authorizing only senators to administer the oath to the Vice President (who serves as the president of the Senate). Later that year, legislation passed that allowed courts to administer all oaths and affirmations. Since 1789, the oath has been changed several times by Congress. The present oath repeated by the Vice President of the United States, Senators, Representatives, and other government officers has been in use since 1884. The oath reads:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

While tradition dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administers the oath of office to the President-elect, a variety of officials have administered the oath to Vice Presidents. The president pro tempore of the Senate administered the oath to the first three Vice Presidents—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Aaron Burr—and to many Vice Presidents from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Some Vice Presidents took the oath from the Chief Justice. On some occasions, the outgoing Vice President administered the oath to the Vice President-elect. Since World War II, Vice Presidents have chosen friends and associates to administer the oath of office.

The location of the Vice President's oath-taking ceremony has also changed since John Adams became Vice President in 1789. Today, the Vice President recites the oath on the west front terrace of the U.S. Capitol. Until 1937, most Vice Presidents took the oath of office in the Senate chamber, prior to the President's swearing-in ceremony. This made the Vice President's swearing-in ceremony distinct and separate from the President's.

For most of the nation's history, Inauguration Day was March 4, which was also the final day of the congressional session. During the morning, the galleries of the Senate chamber would begin to fill with family members and friends of Senators, Representatives, and the incoming and outgoing Presidents and Vice Presidents. Members of the House, the diplomatic corps, cabinet members, and members of the Supreme Court would enter next. Finally, the Vice President-elect, the President, and the President-elect would enter the

crowded chamber, which would then grow quiet to hear the Vice President deliver his farewell address before gaveling the session closed.

At noon (the doorkeeper often had to push the clock hands back to fulfill the noon adjournment requirement), the Vice President-elect would take the oath of office, and then deliver his Inaugural address. Following that, the newly-sworn Vice President would call the Senate into extraordinary session, and then the Senators-elect would come forward and take their oaths of office. Finally, the procession would form and make its way to the east front portico of the Capitol for the President's swearing-in ceremony.

In 1937, Inauguration Day moved to January 20, a change enacted by the 20th amendment to the Constitution. The Vice President's swearing-in ceremony also moved, from the Senate chamber to the Inaugural platform on the Capitol's east front. In 1981, the Inaugural ceremonies moved to the west front terrace of the Capitol, where they have been held ever since.

Although the Vice Presidential swearing-in ceremony lost some of its distinctness after it moved to the east front portico, it gained a public audience, and reflected the growing political importance of the Vice President as part of the executive branch of government.

Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

—Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, United States Constitution

Proceedings associated with the Presidential elections and Inaugurations, almost routine after two centuries, were entirely new and untried following the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The Constitution provides that the President be elected through an electoral college, with membership equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from each state. It authorizes Congress to determine when elections are held, when the Electoral College meets, and when the new President takes the oath of office. The Constitution also requires that the President must be a native born citizen of the United States, have lived in this country for at least fourteen years, and have attained the age of thirty-five. It even specifies the oath of office that the new President should swear or affirm. Beyond that, the Constitution says nothing about the Inaugural ceremony.

The first Inauguration of George Washington occurred on April 30, 1789, in front of New York's Federal Hall. Our nation's first President took the oath of office on a balcony overlooking Wall Street. With the ceremony complete, the crowd below let out three big cheers and President Washington returned to the Senate chamber to deliver his brief Inaugural address. He called upon "That Almighty Being who rules over the universe" to

assist the American people in finding "liberties and happiness" under "a government instituted by themselves."

Four years later, on March 4, 1793, Washington's second Inauguration happened in Philadelphia, where the government had taken up temporary residence while a permanent capital was being built along the Potomac. The President took his oath in the small Senate chamber on the second floor of Congress Hall, a Georgian-style structure just west of Independence Hall. In contrast to his elaborate first Inauguration, this ceremony was a simple affair. Amidst a room crammed with dignitaries, Washington gave the shortest Inaugural address on record—just 135 words—and repeated the oath of office, administered by Supreme Court Justice William Cushing.

By March of 1801, the seat of the U.S. government had moved to Washington, D.C. The streets were muddy, almost impassable, and overgrown with bushes. Crude arrangements for the workers charged with constructing buildings for the federal government scarred the landscape. At the time, the Capitol Building comprised just one wing, which housed the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court, all under one roof. On March 4, 1801, President-elect Thomas Jefferson walked with few attendants and little fanfare to the Capitol Building from his nearby lodgings at a boarding house to become the first President to be inaugurated in the nation's new capital city. Upon entering the Senate chamber, now the Old Supreme Court Chamber, Jefferson immediately took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice John Marshall and addressed the audience gathered in the Senate chamber. After his Inaugural address he finished his day with a meal at the boarding house. But for a few occasions, the Inauguration ceremonies for all future Presidents and Vice Presidents would take place in the City of Washington.

Andrew Jackson's Inauguration on March 4, 1829 was the first of 35 held on the east front of the Capitol. Though Jackson's second Inauguration in 1833 took place inside the House chamber because of his ill health and bad weather, Presidents from Martin Van Buren in 1837 to Theodore Roosevelt in 1905 were sworn into office on the Capitol's east front. In 1909 a raging blizzard forced William Howard Taft's ceremony indoors to the Senate chamber.

The turn of the century brought a milestone worth noting—the formation of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Until the twentieth century, the Inaugural ceremonies had been handled exclusively by the United States Senate. In 1901, one hundred years after the Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson, the Joint Committee was formed to plan and conduct the Inauguration ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol. Senator Marcus A. Hanna, a Republican from Ohio, became the first chairman, responsible for President William McKinley's second Inauguration.

On March 4, 1913, Woodrow Wilson resumed use of the east front for his Inauguration. The ceremony continued to be held there until Franklin D. Roosevelt's unprecedented fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. With the nation and the President weary after four years of war, Roosevelt chose to have a simple, low-key ceremony on the south portico of the White House.

In 1949, Harry Truman's Inauguration saw the return of the ceremonies to the Capitol's east front, where they remained through the Inauguration of Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Ronald Reagan's 1981 Inauguration was the first held on the west front of the Capitol. Seeking to minimize construction costs and improve visibility for a larger number of spectators, Congress shifted the ceremony from its traditional location of the east front. Although Ronald Reagan's second Inauguration, on January 21, 1985, was forced indoors to the Capitol Rotunda because of bitterly cold weather, the Inaugurations of George Bush in 1989, Bill Clinton in 1993 and 1997, and George W. Bush in 2001 continued the west front tradition.

Sadly, not all Presidential Inaugurals have been stately formal ceremonies, or happy occasions. Eight Vice Presidents have taken the oath of office upon the death of a President, while another was sworn in following a Presidential resignation. John Tyler was at his home in Williamsburg, Virginia, when he received the news that President William Henry Harrison had died. Tyler immediately took a coach to Washington. The next day, April 6, 1841, Tyler was sworn in as President at the Indian Queen Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. Chief Justice William Cranch of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia administered the oath to Tyler, as he did nine years later to Millard Fillmore, following the death of President Zachary Taylor. On July 10, 1850, Vice President Fillmore took the oath in a public ceremony in the House of Representatives chamber.

President Abraham Lincoln died early on the morning of April 15, 1865, and shortly afterwards Vice President Andrew Johnson was sworn in quietly at Kirkwood House, in Washington, by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. At 2:00 a.m. on September 20, 1881, Chester Alan Arthur took the oath at his home on Lexington Avenue, in New York City. Two days later, President Arthur repeated the oath in the Vice President's Room in the Capitol, in the presence of former Presidents Grant and Hayes. When William McKinley died, on September 14, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt took the oath in the home of Ansley Wilcox, in Buffalo, New York. News of President Harding's death reached Vice President Calvin Coolidge at his family's homestead in Plymouth, Vermont in the small hours of the morning on August 3, 1923. By the light of a kerosene lamp, Coolidge took the oath from his father, Colonel John Calvin Coolidge, a farmer, notary public, and justice of the peace. On August 21, Coolidge repeated the ceremony in his suite at the Willard Hotel in Washington.

Harry Truman took his oath as President in the Cabinet Room at the White House on the evening of April 12, 1945, following the death of Franklin Roosevelt. On November 22, 1963, in a crowded cabin on Air Force One, at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as President after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Judge Sarah T. Hughes, who administered the oath that day, became the first woman to swear in a President. Most recently, when President Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, becoming the ninth Vice President to complete an unexpired Presidential term.

Although Inaugural traditions have changed through the years, their fundamental premise remains unchanged and unwavering. The American Presidential Inauguration Ceremony,

with its speeches and attendant festivities, has represented both national renewal and continuity of leadership for the past two hundred years and will continue to do so into the future.

President-Elect Obama to be Sworn in Using the Lincoln Bible

Source: Presidential Inauguration Committee 2009 [PIC]

Washington, D.C. - On January 20th, President-elect Barack Obama will take the oath of office using the same Bible upon which President Lincoln was sworn in at his first inauguration. The Bible is currently part of the collections of the Library of Congress. Though there is no constitutional requirement for the use of a Bible during the swearing-in, Presidents have traditionally used Bibles for the ceremony, choosing a volume with personal or historical significance. President-elect Obama will be the first President sworn in using the Lincoln Bible since its initial use in 1861.

"President-elect Obama is deeply honored that the Library of Congress has made the Lincoln Bible available for use during his swearing-in," said Presidential Inaugural Committee Executive Director Emmett Beliveau. "The President-elect is committed to holding an Inauguration that celebrates America's unity, and the use of this historic Bible will provide a powerful connection to our common past and common heritage."

The Bible was originally purchased by William Thomas Carroll, Clerk of the Supreme Court, for use during Lincoln's swearing-in ceremony on March 4, 1861. The Lincoln family Bible, which is also in the Library of Congress's collection, was unavailable for the ceremony because it was packed away with the First Family's belongings, still en route from Springfield, IL, to their new home at the White House.

The Bible itself is bound in burgundy velvet with a gold-washed white metal rim around the three outside edges of both covers. All its edges are heavily gilded. In the center of the top cover is a shield of gold wash over white metal with the words "Holy Bible" chased into it. The book is 15 cm long, 10 cm wide, and 4.5 cm deep when closed. The 1,280-page Bible was published in 1853 by the Oxford University Press.

Annotated in the back of the volume, along with the Seal of the Supreme Court, is the following: "I, William Thomas Carroll, clerk of the said court do hereby certify that the preceding copy of the Holy Bible is that upon which the Honble. R. B. Taney, Chief Justice of the said Court, administered to His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, the oath of office as President of the United States ..."

The Lincoln Inaugural Bible will be on display at the Library of Congress February 12th to May 9th, 2009, as part of an exhibition titled "With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition." The exhibit will then travel to five other American cities. The Library is planning several other events and programming in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of the nation's 16th president, who was born on February 12th, 1809.

On March 4, 2009, the 147th anniversary of Lincoln's first inauguration, the Library of Congress will also be convening an all-day symposium with several renowned Lincoln scholars. For more information see the Library of Congress Web site at www.loc.gov.

For more information and to view photographs of the Lincoln Bible, please visit www.pic2009.org/bible.

For the latest information on the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, please visit www.pic2009.org.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Inaugural Address

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

The custom of delivering an address on Inauguration Day started with the very first Inauguration—George Washington's—on April 30, 1789. After taking his oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City, Washington proceeded to the Senate chamber where he read a speech before members of Congress and other dignitaries. His second Inauguration took place in Philadelphia on March 4, 1793, in the Senate chamber of Congress Hall. There, Washington gave the shortest Inaugural address on record—just 135 words—before repeating the oath of office.

Every President since Washington has delivered an Inaugural address. While many of the early Presidents read their addresses before taking the oath, current custom dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administer the oath first, followed by the President's speech.

William Henry Harrison delivered the longest Inaugural address, at 8,445 words, on March 4, 1841—a bitterly cold, wet day. He died one month later of pneumonia, believed to have been brought on by prolonged exposure to the elements on his Inauguration Day. John Adams' Inaugural address, which totaled 2,308 words, contained the longest sentence, at 737 words. After Washington's second Inaugural address, the next shortest was Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth address on January 20, 1945, at just 559 words. Roosevelt had chosen to have a simple Inauguration at the White House in light of the nation's involvement in World War II.

In 1921, Warren G. Harding became the first President to take his oath and deliver his Inaugural address through loud speakers. In 1925, Calvin Coolidge's Inaugural address was the first to be broadcast nationally by radio. And in 1949, Harry S. Truman became the first President to deliver his Inaugural address over television airwaves.

Most Presidents use their Inaugural address to present their vision of America and to set forth their goals for the nation. Some of the most eloquent and powerful speeches are still quoted today. In 1865, in the waning days of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln stated, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt avowed, "we have nothing to fear but fear itself." And in 1961, John F. Kennedy declared, "And so my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Today, Presidents deliver their Inaugural address on the west front of the Capitol, but this has not always been the case. Until Andrew Jackson's first Inauguration in 1829, most Presidents spoke in either the House or Senate chambers. Jackson became the first President to take his oath of office and deliver his address on the east front portico of the U.S. Capitol in 1829. With few exceptions, the next 37 Inaugurations took place there,

until 1981, when Ronald Reagan's swearing-in ceremony and Inaugural address occurred on the west front terrace of the Capitol. The west front has been used ever since.

Inaugural Addresses and Memorable Words: Tradition of president's first speech dates back to George Washington

December 23, 2008, U.S. Dept. of State, International Information Programs (IIP)



A line from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address is remembered by many Americans decades later.

Washington – Starting with George Washington at the first inauguration in 1789, the inaugural address has been an important American tradition. Most presidents use the inaugural address to present their visions for the United States and to set forth their goals to the American people.

Inaugural addresses have varied in length, from George Washington's 135 words on March 4, 1793, to William Harrison's 8,445 words on March 4, 1841. The speeches set the tone for the upcoming presidency, and a select few are among the most enduring, and most frequently quoted, presidential speeches:

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

— Abraham Lincoln, 1865, in the final days of the U.S. Civil War



Much of President Bush's first inaugural address focused on the themes of freedom and democracy.

"Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
— Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933, in the midst of the economic Great Depression

"And so my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."
— John F. Kennedy, 1961

"To a few of us here today, this is a solemn and most momentous occasion; and yet, in the history of our nation, it is a commonplace occurrence. The orderly transfer of authority as called for in the Constitution routinely takes place as it has for almost two centuries and few of us stop to think how unique we really are. In the eyes of many in the world, this every-four-year ceremony we accept as normal is nothing less than a miracle."
— Ronald Reagan, 1981

"I see history as a book with many pages, and each day we fill a page with acts of hopefulness and meaning. The new breeze blows, a page turns, the story unfolds. And so today a chapter begins, a small and stately story of unity, diversity, and generosity — shared, and written, together."
— George H.W. Bush, 1989

"The greatest progress we have made, and the greatest progress we have yet to make, is in the human heart. In the end, all the world's wealth and a thousand armies are no match for the strength and decency of the human spirit."
— William Jefferson Clinton, 1997

"Through much of the last century, America's faith in freedom and democracy was a rock in a raging sea. Now it is a seed upon the wind, taking root in many nations. Our democratic faith is more than the creed of our country, it is the inborn hope of our humanity, an ideal we carry but do not own, a trust we bear and pass along."
— George W. Bush, 2001

How History Shapes Barack Obama's Inauguration - As he assumes the presidency, Obama will draw inspiration from Lincoln, FDR and Kennedy

By *Kenneth T. Walsh*

Posted December 22, 2008 – *U.S. News & World Report*

Presidential inaugurations are quadrennial moments of renewal. No matter how bitter and angry a campaign has been, Americans tend to stand back, focus on the good qualities of their newly elected leader, and give him a break for at least a while. That's why most new presidents get a honeymoon, however brief, from their critics, and why the first months of a new administration tend to be among the most productive.

What Americans want in an inaugural address is a sense of vision and reaffirmation of what's best in their country. Actually, the most memorable of such speeches also capture and encourage the zeitgeist of their times. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln called on Americans to preserve their Union and heed "the better angels of our nature." In 1933, Franklin Roosevelt inspired courage amid the Depression when he said, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." In 1961, John F. Kennedy called for passing the torch to a "new generation." In 1981, with the long-running Iran-hostage crisis and growing economic woes, Ronald Reagan gave a dispirited nation new hope when he declared, "We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline. I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing. So, with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal."

Great expectations. Striking this balance between vision and effort, between hope and sacrifice, will be especially important when Barack Obama stands on the Capitol's West Front on January 20 and takes the oath of office as the 44th president—and the first African-American to hold that office. "The inaugural address has got to soar," says Ken Duberstein, former White House chief of staff for Reagan. "What America needs right now is inspiration. This is not about beginning a new chapter. This is about opening a new book."

In recent weeks, Obama has been concentrating on the often tedious details of governing as he chose his cabinet, rounded out his White House staff, and met with advisers on the economy, national security, and other issues. In the process, he has been acting more like a corporate manager than a transcendent leader. Obama has been holding back on his

public rhetoric so as not to appear too glitzy and insubstantial, which were common charges against him during the campaign.

Besides, says a prominent Democrat close to Obama's transition team, "He doesn't have any authority to govern yet. George Bush is still the president, and Obama is working very hard to go about all this in the right way. But he'll be as inspirational as all get-out in his inaugural address. Charisma is as charisma does, and this is not the time for it. But on January 20, it will be the time."

Obama, friends say, has been quietly focusing on what he will say, and how he can best inspire what will probably be a [record-breaking crowd](#) of 2 million people on the National Mall and the wider television audience here and abroad. Members of his team say he will return to the motivational persona that became so well known during his campaign and that Americans seem to be craving as they contemplate the nation's growing problems, ranging from the economic meltdown to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the ongoing challenge of battling terrorism.

He is looking at his inauguration, in fact, not as a single speech but as a series of events full of symbols and historic resonance. He will give special emphasis to the [memory of Lincoln](#), a fellow Illinois politician and hero of many African-Americans, who also governed in very challenging times. Obama plans to arrive in Washington the same way Lincoln did in 1861, by train, with major speeches along the way, including addresses in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Advisers say he is reading Lincoln's words and seems sure to include direct references to him at his own inauguration. Obama has already borrowed from Lincoln's first inaugural address, on election night, when he said, "We are not enemies, but friends... Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

And while charisma is not essential to a president's success—leaders ranging from Harry Truman to Lyndon Johnson showed that one can get a lot done without a special ability to reach the masses—it can be enormously helpful in marshaling support for a president's agenda. Most observers expect Obama to focus, first and foremost, on the troubled economy, and seek support for the massive "rescue" package he is now developing with congressional leaders. "He needs to give a sober message and call for sacrifice because

there will be tough times ahead," says a senior Democratic strategist. "But he will also need to send a message of hope."

If done right, Obama's inaugural address could set the tone for his entire administration, following in the pattern of Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Reagan.

Famous Inaugural Words

Source: Reviewing Inaugural History by Robert E. Boyd, McClatchy Newspapers

Abraham Lincoln

March 4, 1865

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds ..."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

March 4, 1933

"So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

John F. Kennedy

Jan. 20, 1961

"And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Ronald Regan

Jan. 20, 1981

"We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look."

George H.W. Bush

Jan. 20, 1989

"We must act on what we know. I take as my guide the hope of a saint: In crucial things, unity; in important things, diversity; in all things, generosity."

Bill Clinton

Jan. 20, 1993

"There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."

Texts of Inaugural Addresses from George Washington to George W. Bush – 1789 to Present:

The American Presidency Project - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/inaugurals.php>

The Avalon Project, Yale Law School -

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/inaug.asp

Re-Quest dot Net - <http://www.re-quest.net/history/inaugurals>

Length of Inaugural Addresses

Infoplease - <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0878085.html>

DEPARTURE OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Departure of Outgoing President

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

Following the inaugural ceremony on the west front of the U.S. Capitol, the outgoing President and First Lady leave the Capitol to begin their post-presidential lives.

Traditionally, the President's departure takes place with little ceremony. An 1889 "Handbook of Official and Social Etiquette and Public Ceremonies at Washington," described the outgoing President's departure this way:

His departure from the Capital is attended with no ceremony, other than the presence of the members of his late Cabinet and a few officials and personal friends. The President leaves the Capital as soon as practicable after the inauguration of his successor.

In 1798, George Washington attended the inauguration of his successor, John Adams, and several observers noted that onlookers paid more attention to Washington than to Adams. With few exceptions, subsequent departing presidents followed Washington's example, and in 1837, President-elect Martin Van Buren and outgoing President Andrew Jackson began the tradition of riding together to the Capitol for the ceremonies.

Until the early 20th century, the departing president also usually accompanied the newly elected president on the carriage-ride from the Capitol to the White House following the inauguration. In the early years, the procession would deliver the former president to his lodgings. (The president usually vacated the White House a day or two before the inauguration.) As the parade became more established, the outgoing president sometimes reviewed the parade with the new president. Around the same time, the outgoing president and first lady began to arrange a luncheon at the White House for the new president and his party. The outgoing president and first lady usually made a quiet departure prior to the luncheon.

In the early 20th century, a new tradition evolved whereby the outgoing president quietly left the Capitol immediately following the inaugural ceremony. In 1909, after congratulating President Howard Taft, former President Theodore Roosevelt left the Capitol for Union Station, where he took a train to his home in New York. In 1921, an ailing President Wilson accompanied president-elect Harding to the Capitol, but was too ill to remain during the ceremony. Outgoing Presidents Coolidge and Hoover also left the Capitol for Union Station where they traveled home by train. Outgoing Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Johnson left the Capitol by Car. Johnson and his family drove to Andrews Air Force Base where they boarded Air Force One for the trip home to Texas.

In recent years, the newly installed President and Vice President have escorted their predecessors out of the Capitol after the swearing-in ceremony. The members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies gather on the stairs on the east front of the Capitol Building. The new Vice President escorts the outgoing Vice President and his spouse out of the Capitol through a military cordon. Then, the new

President escorts the outgoing President and his spouse through the military cordon. Since Gerald Ford's departure in 1977, the former President and First Lady have left the Capitol grounds by helicopter (weather permitting).

The new President and Vice President then return to the Capitol Building for the inaugural luncheon hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

INAUGURAL LUNCHEON

Inaugural Luncheon

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

On January 20, after the newly elected President has taken the oath of office and delivered his Inaugural address, he will be escorted to Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol for the traditional Inaugural luncheon, hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). While this tradition dates as far back as 1897, when the Senate Committee on Arrangements gave a luncheon for President McKinley and several other guests at the U.S. Capitol, it did not begin in its current form until 1953. That year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mrs. Eisenhower, and fifty other guests of the JCCIC dined on creamed chicken, baked ham, and potato puffs in the now-restored Old Senate Chamber.

From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, Presidents left the Capitol after the Inauguration ceremonies and traveled to the White House for a luncheon prepared by the outgoing President and First Lady. After the luncheon, the President and his party would view the parade from a stand erected in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.

As the parade grew larger over the years, and lasted later and later into the afternoon, organizers began to look for ways to hasten its start. In 1897, they proposed that the President go directly from the Capitol to the reviewing stand, and have lunch there, if he desired. Instead, the Presidential party dined in the Capitol as guests of the Senate Committee on Arrangements. In 1901, the President again took his lunch at the Capitol, and the parade delays continued. In 1905, the luncheon returned to the White House, again in the hopes that the parade could start earlier. Eventually, the organizers turned their focus to shortening the parade, rather than the luncheon.

As the twentieth century progressed, the White House luncheons became more and more elaborate. In 1945, President and Mrs. Roosevelt played host to over two thousand guests in what would be the last White House post-inaugural luncheon. In 1949, Secretary of the Senate Leslie Biffle hosted a small lunch for President Truman in his Capitol reception room. They dined on South Carolina turkey, Smithfield Ham, potato salad, and pumpkin pie. And in 1953, the JCCIC began its current tradition of hosting a luncheon for the President, Vice President and their spouses, Senate leaders, the JCCIC members, and other invited guests.

Since then, the JCCIC has organized a luncheon celebration at eight Presidential Inaugurations. Often featuring cuisine reflecting the home states of the new President and Vice President, as well as the theme of the Inauguration, the luncheon program includes speeches, gift presentations from the JCCIC, and toasts to the new administration.

INAUGURAL PARADE

Inaugural Parade

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

When the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies has concluded its luncheon, the guests of honor—the newly sworn President and Vice President—will make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, leading a procession of ceremonial military regiments, citizens' groups, marching bands, and floats. The President, Vice President, their wives, and special guests will then review the parade as it passes in front of a specially built reviewing stand. The Inaugural parade is a celebrated and much anticipated event for millions of Americans across the country.

The tradition of an Inaugural parade dates back to the very first Inauguration, when George Washington took the oath of office on April 30, 1789, in New York City. As he began his journey from Mount Vernon to New York City, local militias joined his procession as it passed through towns along the way. Once he arrived in New York City, members of the Continental Army, government officials, members of Congress, and prominent citizens escorted Washington to Federal Hall for his swearing-in ceremony.

The early Inaugural parades primarily consisted of escorts for the President-elect to the Capitol. Thomas Jefferson's first Inauguration, in 1801, was the first to take place in the new capital city of Washington. Only the north wing of the Capitol was completed at that time, and as Jefferson walked from his nearby boardinghouse to the Capitol, he was accompanied by an Alexandria, Virginia company of riflemen, friends, and "fellow citizens." After his second Inauguration in 1805, a procession formed at the navy yard made up of members of Congress and citizens—including navy yard mechanics—which then escorted President Jefferson from the Capitol to the White House after the Inauguration, accompanied by military music performed by the Marine Band. The Marine Band has played at every Presidential Inauguration since.

The first organized parade occurred in 1809, at the Inauguration of James Madison. A troop of cavalry from Georgetown escorted him to the Capitol. After taking the oath of office, Madison sat in review of nine companies of militia. Future Inaugurations saw these military escorts grow more and more elaborate. William Henry Harrison's parade in 1841 featured floats, and for the first time, military companies from outside the Washington, D.C. area accompanied the President-elect to the Capitol. Citizens clubs, political clubs, several military bands, and groups of college students also marched in the parade, setting future precedent.

In 1865, during Abraham Lincoln's second Inauguration, African Americans marched in the parade for the first time. Four companies of African American troops, a lodge of African American Odd Fellows, and African American Masons joined the procession to the Capitol, and then back to the White House after the Inaugural.

In 1873, President Grant started the tradition of reviewing the parade at the White House after the Inaugural ceremony, shifting the focus of excitement to the post-Inaugural procession, rather than the escort to the Capitol. In 1881, President James Garfield reviewed the parade from a specially built stand in front of the White House. Reviewing stands were also erected along Pennsylvania Avenue for visitors. In 1897, President McKinley reviewed the parade in a glass-enclosed stand to protect him from cold, and possibly harsh, weather.

Despite a blizzard that forced the Inauguration ceremony indoors for William H. Taft in 1909, the parade proceeded as planned, as workers busily cleared snow from the parade route. For the first time, the First Lady accompanied her husband as they led the parade from the Capitol to the White House. The only parade known to have been canceled owing to bad weather was Ronald Regan's second in 1985, when frigid temperatures made the situation dangerous. The largest parade, with 73 bands, 59 floats, horses, elephants, and civilian and military vehicles, and lasting 4 hours and 32 minutes, occurred in 1953 at Dwight D. Eisenhower's first Inauguration. Today, the limit is set at 15,000 participants.

Women first participated in the Inaugural parade in 1917, at Wilson's second Inauguration. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding became the first President to ride in the procession in an automobile. The parade was first televised in 1949, at the Inauguration of Harry S. Truman. Jimmy Carter broke precedent in 1977 by walking in the parade, from the Capitol to the White House, with his wife Rosalynn and their daughter Amy.

Today, the parade is organized by the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, and participants are selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Requests to participate in Inauguration Day events for marching bands, marching units, mounted units, and other performers are collected by the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

INAUGURAL BALLS

Inaugural Ball

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

On May 7, 1789, one week after the Inauguration of George Washington in New York City, sponsors held a ball to honor the new President. It was not until 1809, however, after the Inauguration of James Madison at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., that the tradition of the Inaugural ball began. That night, First Lady Dolley Madison hosted the gala at Long's Hotel. Four hundred tickets sold for \$4 each. In 1833 two balls were staged for President Andrew Jackson, one at Carusi's Assembly Rooms, and the other at Central Masonic Hall. William Henry Harrison attended all three of the 1841 Inaugural balls held in his honor.

The Inaugural ball quickly turned into an anticipated highlight of Washington society, and its location became a prime topic of discussion and angst. Organizers wanted a building that could accommodate large numbers of guests. A temporary wooden building was erected in the city's Judiciary Square in 1849 for one of Zachary Taylor's Inaugural balls. By the time of James Buchanan's Inauguration in 1857, the idea of multiple balls was abandoned for one grand ball that could accommodate thousands of guests. Again, a temporary ballroom was built in Judiciary Square for the occasion. Food purchased for Buchanan's ball included \$3000 worth of wine, 400 gallons of oysters, 500 quarts of chicken salad, 1200 quarts of ice cream, 60 saddles of mutton, 8 rounds of beef, 75 hams, and 125 tongues.

In 1865, the ball following Lincoln's second Inauguration took place in the model room of the Patent Office—the first time a government building was used for the celebration. The Inaugural ball for Grant's 1869 Inauguration was held in the north wing of the Treasury Building. Apparently there was not enough room there for dancing, and a snafu in the checkroom forced many guests to leave without their coats and hats. So for Grant's 1873 Inauguration, a temporary building was again constructed in Judiciary Square.

Grant's second ball proved a disaster, however. The weather that night was freezing cold, and the temporary structure had no heat or insulation. Guests danced in their overcoats and hats, the food was cold, they ran out of coffee and hot chocolate, and even the caged decorative canaries froze.

Later Inaugural balls were held at the National Museum building (now the Smithsonian Arts and Industries building) and the Pension Building, which became the favorite venue from 1885 through 1909.

In 1913, the city's Inaugural organizers began planning the ball to celebrate Woodrow Wilson's Inauguration, again to be held at the Pension Building, but President-elect Wilson thought otherwise. He felt the ball was too expensive and unnecessary for the solemn occasion of the Inaugural, and asked the Inaugural committee to cancel it. The city of Washington had not missed an Inaugural ball since 1853, when a grieving President Franklin Pierce—mourning the recent loss of his son—asked that the ball be cancelled. Although some D.C. residents felt very disappointed by Wilson's request,

others felt relieved. The Pension Building was often closed for over a week in preparation for the ball, causing the government's business there to shut down.

President-elect Warren G. Harding also requested that the Inaugural committee do away with the elaborate ball (and the parade as well) in 1921, hoping to set an example of thrift and simplicity. The committee complied, and instead, the chairman of the Inaugural ball committee hosted a huge private party at his home. Subsequent Inaugurations followed this trend, with charity balls becoming the fashion for the Inaugurations of Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

President Harry Truman revived the official ball in 1949. Organizers for Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 Inaugural ball added a second event due to the great demand for tickets. Four years later, Eisenhower's second Inauguration featured four balls. Kennedy attended five in 1961. President Carter attempted to strip the balls of their glitz and glamour in 1977, calling them parties and charging no more than \$25 each, but by the 2nd inaugural of President William Jefferson Clinton in 1997, the number of balls reached an all-time high of fourteen. George W. Bush's inaugural in 2001 saw the number of official balls decline to eight, and his 2nd inaugural in 2005 was celebrated with nine official balls.

Today, the official Inaugural balls are planned by the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

The Long and Sometimes Glamorous History of Inaugural Balls

By Amanda Ruggeri

Posted December 17, 2008, *U.S. News & World Report*

The tradition of inaugural balls stretches back to the first president. But along with featuring sumptuous spreads and elegant gowns, the history of the galas has included crowded dance floors, lost furs—and even 100 frozen canaries.



Pres. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush depart after their dance during President Bush's second Inaugural Ball.

The 1789 ball wasn't official. Even so, 300 guests attended. The women carried fans decorated with George Washington's profile—gifts of the French government. Washington danced a minuet and two cotillions.

Later, guests were lucky to see the president dance even one full song. In 2001, the length of the time George and Laura Bush danced at each ball ranged between 29 and 56 seconds.

The sumptuousness of inaugural celebrations has also varied (some would say declined) through history. At the first official inaugural ball in 1809, the menu included champagne, terrapin, and "Charlotte Chantilly." James Buchanan's 1857 ball prided itself on sheer amount: \$3,000 spent on wine, 1,200 quarts of ice cream, and 400 gallons of oysters. And Ronald Reagan's 1981 inauguration offered \$500-per-plate dinners at the Kennedy Center.

Other celebrations have been more staid. In 1945, an increasingly ill Franklin D. Roosevelt, presiding over a war-wracked country, had no inaugural balls at all. Nor did he have a parade, and the luncheon he served guests at the White House featured chicken salad, rolls (without butter), and poundcake. (He got through the luncheon only by having his son smuggle him a tumbler of bourbon from his room.)

At the more recent galas, though, lavishness has been promised—but not necessarily seen. "Never have so many paid so much to dance so little," Lyndon B. Johnson said of the overcrowded 1965 balls.

And at President Bill Clinton's record-breaking 14 inaugural balls in 1997, boxed wine was served, ham and cheese sandwiches cost \$5.50, and police had to calm guests waiting in an hour and a half-long coat-check line. But his wasn't the first coat-check fiasco. In 1989, Republicans at George H. W. Bush's ball became so frustrated that they quit the queues and went home, leaving 18 furs behind.

But it has to be the canaries of Ulysses S. Grant's 1873 inauguration that have had the worst luck at the balls. In the 16-degree temperature of a temporary wooden building constructed for the occasion, champagne turned to slush, guests danced in coats and hats, oysters froze, and violin strings snapped. And then there were the 100 canaries, brought in as a whimsical touch.

"They forgot to warm the place up where the ball was held, and the poor canaries froze to death," says Jim Bendat, author of *Democracy's Big Day: The Inauguration of Our President, 1789-2009*.

Given the unevenness of inauguration history, no one can say what snafus might ensue on January 20. But, one hopes, there will at least be heating.

Inaugural galas to try to balance splash, decorum

Chicago Tribune

Published [Wednesday, December 17, 2008](#)

WASHINGTON - As Washington gears up for a big night of inaugural balls, a delicate dance is taking place. Planners want to stage a splashy celebration worthy of the historic moment but are doing it in the midst of tough economic times, perhaps even as President-elect Barack Obama calls for sacrifice in his inaugural address.

"Anything too flashy or expensive, and the new presidency starts off on the wrong foot," said Steve Ellis of Taxpayers for Common Sense, a Washington watchdog group. "It would be difficult to call for sacrifice on the one hand and toast with Dom Perignon in the other."

Linda Douglass, spokeswoman for the inaugural committee, said planners are preparing for the most open, accessible, inclusive inauguration in recent history, noting that the National Mall will be open to anyone, regardless of whether they have a ticket.

Still, a debate rages on.

"This is no time to party," Janett Calland of Ohio, whose husband recently was laid off, wrote on [presidential-inauguration.com](#). "It would be a real impressive gesture for President-elect Obama and Mrs. Obama to elect to cancel parties and balls considering the state of the economy of our country at this time. ... The masses are financially hurting, but the 'money crowd' is eating caviar and drinking champagne."

Donald Baker of Kentucky replied: "Obama shouldn't be denied his moment of celebration. ... Lord knows the man is going to have his hands full enough soon."

City officials project that they could spend \$40 million or more for the event, expected to draw a record turnout. That is separate from the millions that the inauguration committee will raise from private donors to pay for official balls and other expenses.

At a time when the auto industry pleads for federal aid, planners of the Michigan inaugural dinner dance have scaled back their event - a simpler menu, black tie optional, biodegradable paper plates instead of china and no contributions from automakers.

"We need to be very sensitive to appearances," said Debbie Dingell, president of the Michigan State Society. Of scaling back on champagne, she said, "We won't have premium brand.

"There won't be shrimp, I'll be blunt," she added. "But Michigan is known for its whitefish, and we'll have whitefish."

Yet it is hard to hold back in a town that views the inauguration as its own version of the Oscars. Events include a celebrity-studded party planned by the Creative Coalition, with tickets starting at \$10,000 per couple.

There is precedent, of course, for reins on the pomp of the day.

Jimmy Carter gave up a limo ride to take his surprise stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue, and he set \$25 as the maximum price for admission to official balls.

During the Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt skipped the 1933 inaugural ball and canceled the 1937 ball. But Tim Blessing, a history and political science professor at Alvernia University in Pennsylvania, calls it questionable whether that was because of tough economic times "or simply because FDR disliked the balls."